

Church of the Epiphany

The First Sunday in Lent, Year B
February 18, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

The Holy Eucharist with Confirmation and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

Rite II

according to

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER 1979

The Book of Occasional Services 2022
and The Hymnal, 1982

Welcome to the Church of the Epiphany. We are an Episcopal parish church and member of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The Anglican tradition values common prayer. Praying together shapes our faith, binds us together, and helps us grow closer to God. We invite you to pray with us today. Page numbers refer to the Book of Common Prayer, 1979 (the red book). Hymn numbers refer to The Hymnal, 1982 (the blue book). Hymns noted with an S are Service Music and are located in the frontmost section of The Hymnal.

*The half-hour before the Mass is a time of quiet prayer and preparation.
Please wait quietly for the service to begin.*

Please silence or turn off your electronic devices.

Handbell Prelude. Faith.

P. McKhveen

Welcome and Announcements

All stand for the entrance procession

THE GREAT LITANY

BCP 148

Please refer to the musical handout, given by the ushers.

Celebrant O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful,

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy preserve us, for ever.

People **Spare us, good Lord.**

Celebrant From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the devil; and from everlasting damnation,

People **Good Lord, deliver us.**

Celebrant From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want of charity,

People **Good Lord, deliver us.**

Celebrant From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

People **Good Lord, deliver us.**

Celebrant From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word and commandment,

People **Good Lord, deliver us.**

Celebrant From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine,

People **Good Lord, deliver us.**

Celebrant From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from violence, battle, and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,

People **Good Lord, deliver us.**

Celebrant By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation, by thy holy Nativity and submission to the Law; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,

People **Good Lord, deliver us.**

Celebrant By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the Coming of the Holy Ghost,

People **Good Lord, deliver us.**

Celebrant In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,

People **Good Lord, deliver us.**

Celebrant We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

Celebrant That it may please thee to illumine all bishops, priests, and deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of thy Word; and that both by their preaching and living, they may set it forth, and show it accordingly,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

Celebrant That it may please thee to bless and keep all thy people,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

Celebrant That it may please thee to send forth laborers into thy harvest, and to draw all mankind into thy kingdom,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

Celebrant That it may please thee to give to all people increase of grace to hear and receive thy Word, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

Celebrant That it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and are deceived,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

Celebrant That it may please thee to give us a heart to love and fear thee, and diligently to live after thy commandments,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

Celebrant That it may please thee so to rule the hearts of thy servants, the President of the United States, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, and love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

Celebrant That it may please thee to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom upon all peoples,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

Celebrant That it may please thee to show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives, the homeless and the hungry, and all who are desolate and oppressed,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

Celebrant That it may please thee to give and preserve to our use the bountiful fruits of the earth, so that in due time all may enjoy them,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

Celebrant That it may please thee to inspire us, in our several callings, to do the work which thou givest us to do with singleness of heart as thy servants, and for the common good,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

Celebrant That it may please thee to preserve all who are in danger by reason of their labor or their travel,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

Celebrant That it may please thee to preserve, and provide for, all women in childbirth, young children and orphans, the widowed, and all whose homes are broken or torn by strife,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

Celebrant That it may please thee to visit the lonely; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; and to comfort with thy presence those who are failing and infirm,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

Celebrant That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

Celebrant That it may please thee to have mercy upon all mankind,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

Celebrant That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy holy Word,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

Celebrant That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

Celebrant That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; to comfort and help the weak-hearted; to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,

People, **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

Celebrant That it may please thee to grant to all the faithful departed eternal life and peace,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

Celebrant That it may please thee to grant that, in the fellowship of

Martin Luther and all the saints, we may attain to thy heavenly kingdom,

People **We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.**

Celebrant Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

People **Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.**

Celebrant O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

People **Grant us thy peace.**

Celebrant O Christ, hear us.

People **O Christ, hear us.**

The Kyries are sung by all, standing

Kyrie: Lord, Have Mercy

Hymnal S 86

Setting: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd

Kyrie eleison (repeat 3 times)

Christe eleison (repeat 3 times)

Kyrie eleison (repeat 3 times)

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant faces the Holy Altar and says the Collect

Celebrant Let us pray.

BCP 218

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ

your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

BCP 300

The people sit.

Reader A Reading from Genesis [9:8-17]

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence.

Directions for Reciting the Psalter

*The Psalm is read Responsively, the minister alternating with the congregation, verse by verse. An asterisk divides each verse into two parts. In reading, **a distinct pause should be made at the asterisk.** The pause is long enough to take a breath as one silently says the Name of Jesus. Commas in Psalms are not observed with a pause; a pause is observed at semi-colons. The Psalms are best able to be said when the readers both lower the pitch and volume of their voice.*

BCP 583

Reader The Psalm for today is a portion of
Psalm 25, *Ad te, Domine, levavi*
We will read responsively
by whole verse, pausing at the asterisks.

BCP 614

- 1 **T**o you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; * *(pause)*
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 **Let none who look to you be put to shame; * *(pause)***
let the treacherous be disappointed in their
schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, * *(pause)*
and teach me your paths.
- 4 **Lead me in your truth and teach me, * *(pause)***
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
(pause)
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 **Remember not the sins of my youth and my**
transgressions; * *(pause)*
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; * *(pause)*
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 **He guides the humble in doing right * *(pause)***
and teaches his way to the lowly.

9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
(pause)
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Reader A Reading from 1 Peter [3:18-22]

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence.

The people stand for the Gospel procession

Hymn 149. Eternal Lord of Love

Old 124th

Then, all standing, the Deacon or Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
According to Mark [1:9-15].

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came

from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rt. Rev'd E. Mark Stevenson

Silence.

Bari Songs

Rejoice Pita Wani, Mary Nasona, Clement Wani

PREPARATION OF PARENTS AND SPONSORS OF
YOUNG CHILDREN TO BE BAPTIZED

BOS 172

The Celebrant invites forward the parents

Celebrant What do you seek for yourself and your child?

Parents Life in Christ.

Celebrant Jesus said, “The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.” Do you accept these commandments?

Parents I do.

Celebrant In baptism, you died with Christ to the forces of evil and rose to new life as members of his Body. Will you study the commitments of Baptism and strive to keep them in the companionship of this community?

Parents I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you open your heart and mind to receive anew the Good News of Jesus Christ?

Parents I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you be regular in attending public worship to hear the Word of God and celebrate the mystery of Christ's dying and rising?

Parents I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you join us in our life of service to the powerless and the outcast?

Parents I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you work for mercy and justice?

Parents I will, with God's help.

The Celebrant then addresses the congregation

Will you support these persons by your prayer and example, and help them to grow in the knowledge and love of God?

People **We will.**

The Celebrant extends hands over the parents and sponsors and says

May God, our heavenly Father, grant you the power of the Holy Spirit to grow in faith and understanding that you may lead your children in the way of Christ. Amen.

The family remains together at the front of the church while the Deacon, or other person appointed, leads the prayers

The Celebrant says to the congregation

Let us pray for this candidate and all those preparing for Holy Baptism in this season.

Intercessor That they may grow in knowledge and love of you, we pray to you, O Lord.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For their parents, that they may make known to them the riches of your Word, we pray to you, O Lord.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor That in due season they may join us in works of justice and mercy we pray to you, O Lord.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For their sponsors that in their lives they may show to these candidates a pattern of life in accordance with the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For this congregation, that we may abound in love and persevere in prayer, we pray to you, O Lord.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Silence

The Celebrant says the following prayer with hands extended over the candidate

Gracious and merciful God, protector of all who come to you, life of those who trust in you: We call upon you for *these parents* who desire for their child the grace of spiritual rebirth in the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Grant that *Debrah* may receive the blessing of new life, grow into the full stature of Christ, know your abundant grace, and enter into your eternal joy, where with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The candidates, parents, and sponsors then return to their places and the Liturgy continues

The Celebrant says

The Candidates for Confirmation and Reaffirmation will now be presented.

Presenters I present *these persons* for Confirmation.

Presenters I present *these persons* who *desire* to reaffirm *their* baptismal VOWS.

The Bishop asks the candidates

Bishop Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidate I do.

Bishop Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidate I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

After all have been presented, the Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People **We will.**

The Celebrant then says these or similar words

Let us join with *those who are* committing *themselves* to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
People **I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and
fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the
prayers?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever
you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good
News of God in Christ?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving
your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people,
and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES

BCP 309

The Bishop says to the congregation

Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their
commitment to Christ.

Silence may be kept.

Then the Bishop says

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and
resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin
and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your
Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in
these your *servants* the covenant you made with *them* at *their*
Baptism. Send *them* forth in the power of the Spirit to
perform the service you set before *them*; through Jesus Christ
your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

FOR CONFIRMATION

BCP 309

The Bishop, with the recipient(s) kneeling, lays hands upon each one and says

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your Holy Spirit;
empower *him* for your service; and sustain *him* all the days
of *his* life. *Amen.*

FOR REAFFIRMATION

The Bishop with the recipient(s) kneeling, lays hands upon each one and says

N., may the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you,
direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his
kingdom. *Amen.*

Then the Bishop says

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over *these* your *servants*; let your Holy Spirit ever be with *them*; and so lead *them* in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that *they* may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The peace is then exchanged

THE PEACE

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

*The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with a sentence of Scripture.
During the Offertory, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung.*

BCP 361

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God a portion of what God has given us, symbolically in the Bread and Wine and in the money we give. Today's loose offering is received to support the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. All are invited to make a thank offering as the plate is passed. The offerings are then brought to the altar to be blessed by the Celebrant.

The people sit

Musical Offertory

Joseph Elionai

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings to the deacon or celebrant.

The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

BCP 361

Hymn 686. Come, thou fount of every blessing

Nettleton

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 367

*The people remain standing.
The Celebrant faces them and says*

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS

Hymnal S-130

Celebrant and People

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only

and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People **AMEN.**

The Celebrant continues

And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

People and Celebrant

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Then may be sung or said

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

In place of, or in addition to, the preceding, some other suitable anthem may be used.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds and then immediately deliver it to the people.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians who come seeking the Body and Blood of Christ, who earnestly repent of their sins, are in love and charity with their neighbors, and intend to lead a new life following the commandments of God are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

All are welcome to come to the altar rail and receive a blessing from the priest. Indicate this at the rail by crossing both arms over your chest.

The Sacrament is celebrated using wheat bread and fortified fermented grape wine.

We do not permit intincting the Holy Sacrament, or dipping the bread into the consecrated wine. If, for any reason, you do not wish to receive the bread or the wine, please cross your arms as the minister approaches. Although we encourage reception in both kinds, the grace of God present in the Holy Sacrament is fully available in the Body or Blood alone.

You may stand or kneel to receive Communion. The consecrated Bread is received in the hand, the right hand laid flat and placed on top of the left. To receive the consecrated Wine, grasp only the base of the chalice and guide it to your lips.

If you would like Communion brought to you in your pew, please inform an usher.

If you have not been baptized and find yourself drawn to Jesus Christ and life in him, please let our clergy know. We would be honored to have a conversation with you about baptism or answer any other questions. Baptism and life in the Body of Christ is open to all.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

BCP 365

Celebrant The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.
Communicant **Amen.**

Celebrant The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.
Communicant **Amen.**

Choral Anthem. Lead me Lord.

S. Wesley

The people join the choir in singing the hymns during Communion.

Hymn 314. Humbly I adore thee

Adoro devote

Taizé Chant. Eat This Bread

**Eat this bread, Drink this cup
Come to Him and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, Drink this cup,
Trust in Him and you will not thirst.**

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant and People

BCP 365

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

In Lent, in place of a seasonal blessing, a solemn Prayer over the People is used

BOS 12

The Deacon or, in the absence of a deacon, the Celebrant says

Bow down before the Lord.

The people kneel.

Celebrant Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The people stand for the dismissal.

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses the people with these words

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 142. Lord, who throughout these forty days

St. Flavian

An Outline of the Faith
commonly called the Catechism

The Ministry

Q. Who are the ministers of the Church?

A. The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons.

Q. What is the ministry of the laity?

A. The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.

Q. What is the ministry of a bishop?

A. The ministry of a bishop is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as apostle, chief priest, and pastor of a diocese; to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the whole Church; to proclaim the Word of God; to act in Christ's name for the reconciliation of the world and the building up of the Church; and to ordain others to continue Christ's ministry.

Q. What is the ministry of a priest or presbyter?

A. The ministry of a priest is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as pastor to the people; to share with the bishop in the overseeing of the Church; to proclaim the Gospel; to administer the sacraments; and to bless and declare pardon in the name of God.

Q. What is the ministry of a deacon?

A. The ministry of a deacon is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as a servant of those in need; and to assist bishops and priests in the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments.

Q. What is the duty of all Christians?

A. The duty of all Christians is to follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God.

Church of the Epiphany

An Episcopal Parish in the Diocese of Virginia
and part of the worldwide Anglican Communion

8000 Hermitage Road

Richmond, Virginia 23228

(804) 266-2503

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00

Clergy and Staff

The Rt. Rev'd E. Mark Stevenson, D. Min. *h.c.*, Bishop Diocesan
The Rev'd Kristin P. R. Wickersham, SCP, Priest-in-Charge
The Rev'd Canon John F. Rice, D. Min., Retired Priest in Residence
Mr. Florian Jones-Stamm, Deacon Intern
Mrs. Anita Williams, Director of Music Ministries
Mrs. Lucy Whitlock, Parish Administrator
Mrs. Crystal Sarvay, R.N., Parish Nurse
Mr. Timon Kenyi, Sexton
Marty Shephard, Treasurer

Vestry

The Rev'd Kristin P. R. Wickersham, Presider
John Sarvay, Sr. Warden
Randy Holden, Jr. Warden
Jeri Townley, Register
Scott Blackwell, Gray Corbett, John Norris,
Mirendy Smith, Billy Tucker

Ministers

The ministers of the Church are all lay people, bishops, priests, and deacons.

COMMUNICATION CARD
February 18, 2024

Welcome! You have blessed us with your presence. Please tell us how we can best serve you by completing the Communication Card.

Please place in the offering basket, hand it to an usher, or place on the table in the vestibule.

I'm looking for a church home
 I'd like to speak with a clergy member
 I'm ready to become a member
 I'm just visiting today

Name & Address Please update

Phone _____

Email _____

Children's names and ages

Please give me more information about:

Children's / Youth Programs
 Social events
 Outreach opportunities
 Classes and Small Group Studies
 Baptism or Confirmation
 How I can get involved

How did you hear about Epiphany?

(over)

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

New to the Prayer List: John Burkhardt — Brother-in-law of Chris & Sandy Tignor, Jeri Ligon—David Skinner's sister 

Parishioners: Ray Hampton, Dot Hudson, Martha & Milton Jenkins, Fran LaVigne, Marion Magruder, Joyce Melton, Ina Stickel, Irene Morris, Mike Young, Shirley Hughson, Dottie Strabley, Chris Tignor, Jeannie Riddick, Oscar Aderholt, John Sarvay

Family & Friends: Marie Patterson— Crystal Sarvay's mother, Jean Stone— John Stone's mother, Melanie Goodpasture— Carol McElhinney's daughter, Ed Morrow —friend of Kathy Jimerson, Rush Middleton—friend of Kim & Dwight Ludwig, Karen Rood—sister of Jeri Townley, John Henry Rice—son of Fr. John & Mackie Rice, Johnny Jorstad—Martha Jenkins son & Marty Shephard & Sandy Tignor's brother, Linda Whitlock —sister-in-law of Wayne & Lucy Whitlock, Caitlin & Fr. Kyle Bomare & their family, Judy Watson—cousin of Marty Shephard & Sandy Tignor

Prayers for the departed:

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY Today's Ministers

Weekly Worship
Sundays at 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Contact info:
The Rev. Kristin P. R. Wickersham, SOCS
Priest in Charge
Cell Phone: 804-502-1891

8000 Hermitage Road
804-266-2503

Office hours:
Tuesday—Thursday 9am-12noon
www.epiphanyepiscopal.com

Ushers: Gray Corbett, Kim Ruder
Acolytes: Avery Craver, Faith Bingat
Lessons: Kathy Jimerson
Prayers of the People: Florian Jones-Stamm
Chalice: Florian Jones-Stamm
Sun. School Helper: Kathy Jimerson
Altar Guild: Lucy Whitlock, Ann Poates
Coffee Hour: Everyone
Counters: Gray Corbett



The Church of the Epiphany

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The First Sunday of Lent

February 18, 2024

Welcome—we are glad you are here! Know that whoever you are, and where ever you are in your spiritual journey, you have a place here. If you are new, or haven't yet given us your contact information, please complete the attached communication card and place it in the plate so that you can learn more about Epiphany's community.

Introducing the Lesson

1st Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

Our Hebrew scripture lesson tells of God's promise to Noah and to future generations never again to flood all the earth. God establishes this covenant with a sign—the rainbow that is seen in the storm clouds. This covenant is made with the whole creation. It signifies God's purpose to preserve and save the world, not to destroy it.

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

This reading from the New Testament speaks of the significance of Christ's death and resurrection. In the story of Noah's salvation a prefigurement of our own salvation through the water of baptism is perceived. Portions of this letter are thought to have been originally composed for use in a service of baptism and Eucharist on the eve of Easter. Such a purpose would explain the association of the themes of Christ's death, baptism, and his triumphal resurrection. It is uncertain who is meant by the spirits to whom Christ preached after his death, but this activity may signify God's intention for the salvation of all.

The Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

The gospel is the story of Jesus' baptism followed by his temptation in the wilderness by Satan and his proclamation of the coming kingdom of God. As Jesus comes up from the water, the Holy Spirit descends like a dove and a voice from heaven tells him that he is the beloved Son. The Spirit then guides him out into the wilderness, where ancient Israel also met its temptations. Here Jesus has his first encounter with Satan, and then goes forth proclaiming the nearing reign of God: "Repent, and believe in the good news."

On the Calendar and Coming up

Sun. Feb. 18th
 9:30 am—Confirmation & Reaffirmation Meeting with Bishop Stevenson in the Parlor.
 9:30 am—Children’s Sunday School
 10:30 am—The Great Litany (sung), Holy Eucharist, Rite 2

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

Mon. Feb. 19th
 Office Closed—Presidents’ Day

Tue. Feb. 20th
 6:00 pm—Vestry Meeting

Wed. Feb. 21st
 6:00 pm—Bible Study

Thur. Feb. 22nd
 6:15 pm — Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 7:30 pm — Handbell Rehearsals.

Fri. Feb. 23rd
 7:30 pm — AA meeting in the parish hall

Sun. Feb. 25th
 8:15 am—Holy Eucharist—Rite 1
 9:30—Children’s Sunday School & Adult Forum
 10:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite 2

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

Stewardship: One of the dangers of having a lot of money is that you may be quite satisfied with the kinds of happiness money can give and so fail to realize your need for God. If everything seems to come simply by signing checks, you may forget that you are at every moment totally dependent on God. (C.S) Lewis)

The Bible Study meets on Wednesdays from 6—7:30 PM. They are reading *Falling into Grace: Exploring Our Inner Life With God* by the Rev. John Newton. All are invited to join.

2nd Sunday Lunch for April is cancelled due to Big Night Out.

May 19 — Sloppy Joes
 June 9 — Church Picnic
 It is free to all who would like to join us. We welcome guests to any and all meals!
 The menu is subject to change, and meals will have a vegetarian option.

Adult Forum Sundays at 9:30 am. They are discussing Sunday’s lessons, focusing on the readings from the Gospel of Mark. Please join us for coffee, cookies and some great conversation about how the Word of God speaks to us today.

Save the Date: Saturday, April 13 from 6—9pm. Chapter 11’s Big Night Out! Stay tuned for more information!

Outreach Opportunities

The diaper ministry continues to hold diaper distribution on the third Saturday of every month from 10 am to 12 noon. This inspirational ministry has been touching families lives in our community since 2018 and continues to welcome new families each month. This ministry offers the parish an outreach opportunity to share God’s love and develop relationships within our community. The next diaper distribution will be on **March 16th**. A sign-up sheet is on the outreach board in the parish hallway for anyone interested in volunteering. Donations of diapers (sizes 4, 5 and 6) and wipes are also appreciated. Thank you again to everyone for your continued support of this ministry!

Homeless Lunches: If anyone is interested in taking part in this ministry, ALL are welcome! Contact Mary Sam Abernathy (msabernathy88@gmail.com) or the team lead, for the team you are interested in helping. **The next lunches are scheduled to be prepared and delivered by the Green Team on March 2nd.** The 2024 homeless lunch schedule is now up on the outreach board and we will be entering our 25th year of participating in this ministry. **Donations of paper lunch bags, sandwich bags and napkins** are always welcome as well and can be dropped at the church office. Additionally, if you have further questions or concerns, I am always available to answer any questions. Crystal Sarvay, Outreach Coordinator (crystalsarvay@gmail.com).

Lambs Basket continues to need donations of food items, particularly cereals, peanut butter, jams, jellies, and canned foods. Please, bring in your donations and leave them in the parish hallway in the red wagon. Thank you for your continued support of this project.

A new opportunity to help our community: Lakeside Elementary School needs individually wrapped **healthy snacks and juices**. A box/basket will be in the parish hallway to collect these items. There are many students whose families cannot afford to send snacks to school with their children. Students during the day between breakfast and lunch need snacks and those who stay later in the afterschool program. Snacks are not provided by the school, although they do participate in the lunch program. If you have any questions, please contact Crystal.

Also, Please be on the look out for the “**Blessing Box**” and “**Little Library**.” They are in the works and will be here soon!

*The love and kindness that our parish shares is beyond amazing!
 Love lives here!* 

Attendance: February 11, 2024
 8:15 am
 10:30 am

COMMUNICATION CARD

February 18, 2024

Our Communication Card is for **all people at The Church of the Epiphany** so that you can share your thoughts and prayers, and request information.

If you are new, please complete the opposite side so we also have your contact information.

I'd like more information about an upcoming event or program

I am RSVPing or signing up for:

I am interested in learning more about how to be part of the following ministries or programs:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Greeters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Altar Guild | <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office help | <input type="checkbox"/> Readers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian Ed | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> Ushers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chalice Bearer | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Prayer Requests / Comments
